



Tennessee News Release

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

WHEAT CROP EXPECTED TO BE DOWN 42 PERCENT

NASHVILLE, May 12, 2010 – The effects of torrential rains, flooding, and reduced seeding last fall are expected to lead to a sharp reduction to Tennessee's 2010 wheat crop. Tennessee's winter wheat production is projected to total 10.1 million bushels, down 42 percent from a year ago according to a recent survey conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee Field Office, around May 1. The state's average yield is expected to be 56.0 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels from a year earlier. Tennessee farmers seeded 290,000 acres last fall, down 33 percent from the previous year. Wheat producers expect to harvest 180,000 acres for grain, 160,000 less than a year ago. The remaining 110,000 acres were used as a cover crop, will be harvested for hay or silage, or will be abandoned due to flooding. By the week ending May 9, nearly three-fourths of the State's acreage had headed, slightly behind the normal pace. The crop was rated in mostly fair-to-good condition.

United States: Production is forecast at 1.46 billion bushels, down 4 percent from 2009. Based on May 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 45.9 bushels per acre, up 1.7 bushels from the previous year. Expected grain area totals 31.8 million acres, down 8 percent from last year. As of May 2, sixty-eight percent of the United States winter wheat crop was rated in good to excellent condition, 21 points above the same week in 2009, and heading had reached 27 percent in the 18 major producing States, 4 percentage points behind the 5-year average.

Winter Wheat: Tennessee, Surrounding States, and U.S., May 1, 2010 with Comparisons¹

State	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Arkansas	390	170	44.0	52.0	17,160	8,840
Georgia	250	130	42.0	48.0	10,500	6,240
Kentucky	390	300	57.0	65.0	22,230	19,500
Mississippi	165	130	50.0	50.0	8,250	6,500
Missouri	730	310	47.0	46.0	34,310	14,260
North Carolina	600	400	49.0	46.0	29,400	18,400
TENNESSEE	340	180	51.0	56.0	17,340	10,080
Virginia	210	175	58.0	63.0	12,180	11,025
United States	34,485	31,786	44.2	45.9	1,522,718	1,458,350

¹ 2010 forecast, 2009 final.

STATE HAY SUPPLIES UP FROM 2009

Tennessee: Hay stocks on Tennessee farms totaled 678,000 tons on May 1, up 23 percent from a year earlier. A wet fall caused many farmers to lose their late cuttings. Fortunately, enough had already been harvested to replenish stocks. Hay supplies were adequate to support livestock throughout the winter. Currently, hay stocks are rated in short supply in a few areas but mostly adequate elsewhere. Disappearance of hay, which is hay fed, sold or wasted, from December 1, 2009 - May 1, 2010, totaled 2.54 million tons.

United States: All hay stored on farms May 1, 2010 totaled 20.9 million tons, down 5 percent from a year ago. Disappearance from December 1, 2009-May 1, 2010 totaled 86.3 million tons, compared with 81.6 million tons for the same period a year ago. Compared with last year, hay stocks increased in the Tennessee Valley, Ohio Valley, Rocky Mountains, and much of the Southwest. Stock increases in these areas were largely attributed to improved spring pasture conditions and in many cases, higher 2009 hay production.